

AD-A265 293

Approved
No 0704 0188



REPORT DOCUMENTATION

1a REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Unclassified

2a SECURITY CLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY

2b DECLASSIFICATION/DOWNGRADING SCHEDULE

MAY 14 1993

4 PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER(S)

Report #20

3 DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY OF REPORT

Approved for public release and sale;
distribution unlimited.

5 MONITORING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER(S)

4135010

6a NAME OF PERFORMING ORGANIZATION

University of Minnesota

6b OFFICE SYMBOL
(If applicable)

ONR

7a NAME OF MONITORING ORGANIZATION

Office of Naval Research

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8a NAME OF FUNDING/SPONSORING ORGANIZATION

Office of Naval Research

8b OFFICE SYMBOL
(If applicable)

ONR

9 PROCUREMENT INSTRUMENT IDENTIFICATION NUMBER

N001489J1301

8c ADDRESS (City, State, and ZIP Code)

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10 SOURCE OF FUNDING NUMBERS

PROGRAM
ELEMENT NO

61153N

PROJECT
NO

4135

TASK
NO

WORK UNIT
ACCESSION NO

4135010

11 TITLE (Include Security Classification)

"Solid-State Structures of Guanidinium Methane-, Ethane-, and Trifluoromethane-sulfonate" (Unclassified)

12 PERSONAL AUTHOR(S)

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13a TYPE OF REPORT

Technical

13b TIME COVERED

FROM 6/1/92 TO 5/31/93

14 DATE OF REPORT (Year, Month, Day)

April 22, 1993

15 PAGE COUNT

7

16 SUPPLEMENTARY NOTATION

17 COSATI CODES

FIELD	GROUP	SUB-GROUP
07	03	

18 SUBJECT TERMS (Continue on reverse if necessary and identify by block number)

guanidinium sulfonate/hydrogen bonding/
molecular crystal

19 ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse if necessary and identify by block number)

The solid-state structures of guanidinium sulfonates, $[\text{C}(\text{NH}_2)_3]^+\text{RSO}_3^-$, are being studied and the role of hydrogen bonding in controlling molecular packing assessed. We have found that guanidinium sulfonates frequently self-assemble into two-dimensional sheets formed by hydrogen bonds between the six guanidinium protons and the six sulfonate oxygen lone electron pairs. X-ray structures of guanidinium methanesulfonate, guanidinium ethanesulfonate, and guanidinium triflate are reported here. Each of these salts crystallizes in a bilayer structure of hydrogen-bonded sheets.

20 DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY OF ABSTRACT

☒ UNCLASSIFIED/UNLIMITED ☐ SAME AS RPT ☐ DTIC USERS

21 ABSTRACT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Unclassified

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ONR Code 1113

OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH

Grant or Contract N001489J1301

R&T Code 4135010

Technical Report #20

**"Solid-State Structures of Guanidinium Methane-, Ethane-, and
Trifluoromethanesulfonate"**

by

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93-10498


93 5 11 16 5

Control of packing in the solid-state is instrumental in the design of molecular materials. Hydrogen bonds, one of strongest intermolecular interactions, can be used to direct crystal packing. We have discovered that guanidinium sulfonates, $[\text{C}(\text{NH}_2)_3]^+ \text{RSO}_3^-$, frequently pack by forming two-dimensional sheets of hydrogen bonds between the six guanidinium protons and the six sulfonate oxygen lone electron pairs (Figure 1). This is important for materials design because crystal packing is strongly and reproducibly controlled in two dimensions. Guanidinium methanesulfonate and guanidinium ethanesulfonate are isostructural and crystallize in monoclinic space group $C2/m$. Guanidinium trifluoromethanesulfonate (triflate) has a similar structure, but crystallizes in monoclinic space group $C2/c$. Crystallographic data for the three salts is given in Table I.

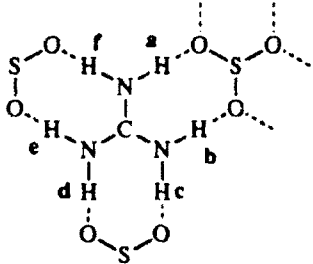
Table I. Crystallographic Data for Guanidinium Salts of Methanesulfonate, Ethanesulfonate, and Triflate.

compound	guanidinium methanesulfonate	guanidinium ethanesulfonate	guanidinium triflate
formula	$\text{C}_2\text{H}_9\text{N}_3\text{O}_3\text{S}$	$\text{C}_3\text{H}_{11}\text{N}_3\text{O}_3\text{S}$	$\text{C}_2\text{H}_6\text{F}_3\text{N}_3\text{O}_3\text{S}$
FW	155.17	169.20	209.14
crystal color, habit	col, plate	col, plate	col, plate
crystal size (mm)	0.700 x 0.500 x 0.100	0.550 x 0.450 x 0.170	0.550 x 0.450 x 0.150
crystal system	monoclinic	monoclinic	monoclinic
space group	$C2/m$	$C2/m$	$C2/c$
a (Å)	12.778 (5)	12.793 (4)	12.988 (7)
b (Å)	7.342 (2)	7.398 (5)	7.512 (2)
c (Å)	9.998 (2)	11.172 (3)	18.45 (1)
β (°)	126.96 (2)	128.060 (2)	111.69 (4)
V (Å ³)	749.6 (8)	833 (1)	1672 (3)
Z	4	4	8
D_x (g/cm ³)	1.375	1.350	1.661
F (000)	328	360	848
μ (MoK α) (cm ⁻¹)	3.66	3.35	3.99
T (°C)	24	24	24
no. data ($F_0 > 2\sigma(F_0)$)	743	749	1284
R	0.051	0.058	0.038
R_w	0.079	0.072	0.053
$2\theta_{\text{max}}$ (°)	51.9	56.0	51.9
range of hkl	$\pm 15, +9, \pm 12$	$\pm 16, +9, \pm 14$	$\pm 12, +7, \pm 17$
(shift/error) _{max}	0.02	0.02	0.04
largest peak (e ⁻ /Å ³)	0.48	0.33	0.28
GOF	2.33	1.50	1.36

Each structure is composed of two-dimensional guanidinium-sulfonate hydrogen-bonded sheets in approximately the ab plane. The N...O distances of the hydrogen bonds are given in Table II. Figure 2 shows a view normal to the guanidinium ions of one hydrogen-bonded layer in guanidinium methanesulfonate; analogous packing occurs in the guanidinium salts of ethanesulfonate and triflate. The hydrogen-bond sheets pack in bilayer structures (Figure 3) in which the sulfonate R groups (methyl, ethyl, or trifluoromethyl) are all oriented to one side of each sheet, resulting in partitioning into hydrophobic and hydrophilic regions. Guanidinium ethanesulfonate is isostructural to guanidinium methanesulfonate; the cell parameters a , b , and β are equivalent to those in guanidinium methanesulfonate, with the c constant (direction approximately normal to the hydrogen-bond sheet) lengthening (11.172 versus 9.998 Å) to accommodate packing of

the slightly larger ethyl group. Guanidinium triflate packs slightly differently; the mirror symmetry element is replaced by a glide in this structure. We believe that the difference in packing arises from an electronic effect due to the fluorine atoms of the triflate. The controlled crystal packing in two dimensions in these salts suggests that further engineering in the third dimension will lead to new materials with desirable properties such as second-order nonlinear optical activity.

Table II. N...O Distances (Å) in guanidinium methanesulfonate, ethanesulfonate, and triflate.



hydrogen bond	guanidinium methanesulfonate	guanidinium ethanesulfonate	guanidinium triflate
a	2.893 (2)	2.927 (3)	2.985 (4)
b	2.917 (3)	2.957 (4)	2.990 (4)
c	2.935 (3)	2.957 (3)	2.986 (3)
d	= c	= c	2.992 (3)
e	= b	= b	2.998 (3)
f	= a	= a	3.001 (3)

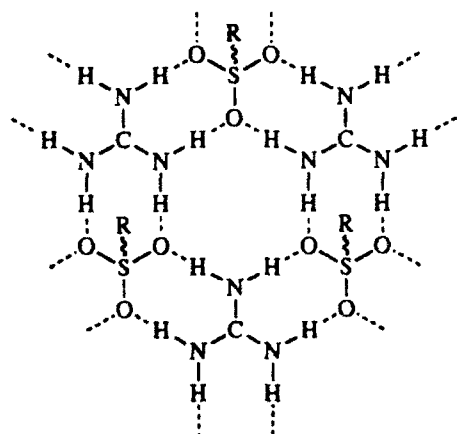


Figure 1. Common hydrogen-bond pattern in guanidinium sulfonates.

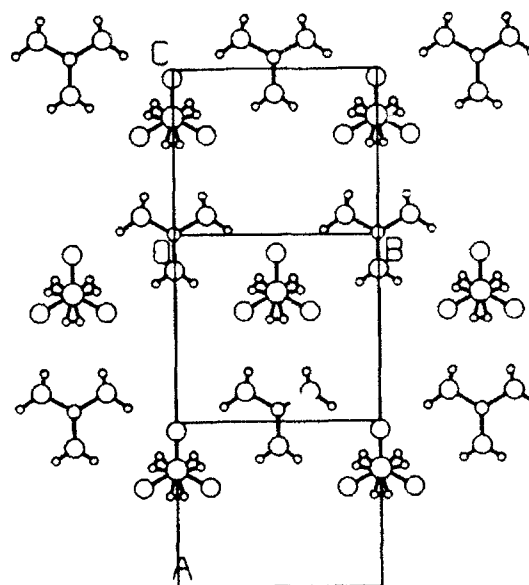
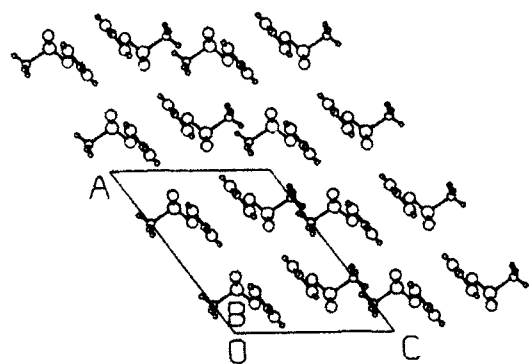
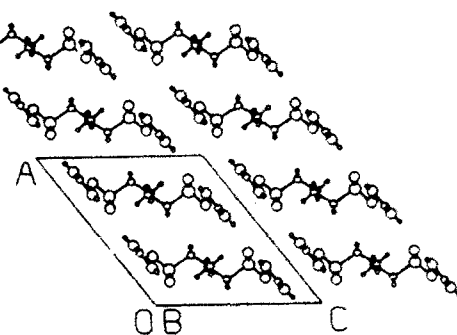


Figure 2. View normal to guanidinium ions of one hydrogen-bond layer in guanidinium methanesulfonate.

a



b



c

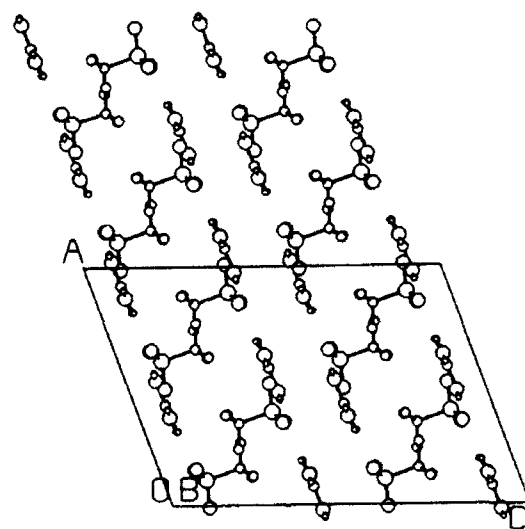


Figure 3. Bilayer structures in (a) guanidinium methanesulfonate, (b) guanidinium ethanesulfonate, and (c) guanidinium triflate.

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